



FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST



Request Number: F-2017-01153

Keyword: Crime

Subject: Acid Attacks

Request and Answer:

Question

Please would you tell me: A record of all acid attacks recorded by your force during the following calendar years: a) 2015 b) 2016 c) 2017 to date (April 21 or whichever date is closest). Please use calendar years but failing that financial years would be fine - please state which type of year you respond with. By 'acid attack' I mean any kind of crime in which the perpetrator(s) threw acid or a corrosive substance at the victim(s) in order to harm them.

For each record, please provide: i) the local authority of community safety partnership in which it took place ii) the year iii) the crime as recorded by the police (e.g. assault occasioning actual bodily harm) iv) the outcome of the crime (e.g. charged). I would prefer this data to be supplied in soft copy spreadsheet (.xls) format.

Answer

Your request for information has now been considered. In respect of Section 1(1)(a) of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 I can confirm that the Police Service of Northern Ireland does hold information to which your request relates.

Between 1st January 2015 and 21st April 2017, there was one crime recorded within the violence against the person or robbery classifications where the Occurrence Modus Operandi information was set to 'noxious substance/acid'.

This crime was recorded as 'Assault without injury' in 2016 and occurred in Belfast City policing district. The outcome of this crime was No prosecution.

Please note that while the inclusion of 'noxious substance/acid' will be connected to the incident reported, the involvement may not be directly connected to the violence against the person offences recorded.

Figures within the current financial year (i.e. from 1st April 2017) are provisional and will be subject to change. This information is based on data extracted from a live crime recording system and may be subject to change. It is dependent on the information having been input into the system in such a way as to identify those records that are relevant.

If you have any queries regarding your request or the decision please do not hesitate to contact me on 028 9070 0164. When contacting the Freedom of Information Team, please quote the reference number listed at the beginning of this letter.

If you are dissatisfied in any way with the handling of your request, you have the right to request a review. You should do this as soon as possible or in any case within two months of the date of issue of this letter. In the event that you require a review to be undertaken, you can do so by writing to the Head of Freedom of Information, PSNI Headquarters, 65 Knock Road, Belfast, BT5 6LE or by emailing foi@psni.pnn.police.uk.

If following an internal review, carried out by an independent decision maker, you were to remain dissatisfied in any way with the handling of the request you may make a complaint, under Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act, to the Information Commissioner's Office and ask that they investigate whether the PSNI has complied with the terms of the Freedom of Information Act. You can write to the Information Commissioner at Information Commissioner's Office, Wycliffe House, Water Lane, Wilmslow, Cheshire, SK9 5AF. In most circumstances the Information Commissioner will not investigate a complaint unless an internal review procedure has been carried out, however the Commissioner has the option to investigate the matter at his discretion.

Please be advised that PSNI replies under Freedom of Information may be released into the public domain via our website @ www.psnj.police.uk

Personal details in respect of your request have, where applicable, been removed to protect confidentiality.